

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election violates the public trust and their mandate to use public airways in a manner which benefits the general public.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. By controlling the airwaves to serve their private interests, we have the equivalent of what our country has helped fight against in totalitarian governments around the world, rather than service in the interest of an informed public, which we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced under the guise of news from a "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people, actual information about local events, and more unbiased, substantive news about issues that matter.

Because Sinclair is violating the trust and the rules under which they have been licensed to use the airways, it is the FCC's duty to intervene in this situation before it is allowed to take place. Their abuse should be sanctioned, and their actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve informed scrutiny and review of past performance--more than a returned postcard. Thank you.